

ERACOL



**ERASMUS MUNDUS
ACTION 2
PARTNERSHIPS**

Call for applications

Erasmus Columbus project (ERACOL) for academic mobility scholarships in thematic fields related to HEALTH and PUBLIC HEALTH

Exchange between Europe and Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama

ERASMUS MUNDUS EXTERNAL COOPERATION WINDOW (EM ECW)
Lot 21b (Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama)

—Updated 26 April 2010—

Changes, additional information:

- 2010 April 26:
 - o Chapter 4 "mobility": Duration of mobility for undergraduates from Latin America and Europe, masters from Europe and post docs from Latin America Target group 2 and Europe is changed from 4 to 6 months into 6 to 10 months (For Master and Undergraduates, mobility of a shorter duration is only allowed in duly justified cases)
 - o Chapter 4 "mobility" and chapter 6 "Selection criteria": Post doctorate European scholars must have obtained their doctorate in the last 2 years.
- 2010 May 9:
 - o You have to send your application in English, including motivation letter, resume, research proposal and recommendation letters.
 - o European applicants need to have the nationality from the country of the European partner university they are studying / working in, or from another country within the European Union.

This call is open from
08 April 2010, 00:00 hours Central European Time to
1 June 2010, 24:00 Central European Time

The project provides funding for subsistence allowances, travel costs, insurance and tuition fees.

All mobilities (exchanges) funded by ERACOL must start before 1 September 2010.



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1. Introduction

ERACOL (Erasmus-Columbus 2013) is the framework of the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EM ECW) programme, which is a scheme that encourages cooperation and mobility in higher education funded by the European Commission. Its main objective is to promote the exchange of people, knowledge and skills.

ERACOL was designed to create mutual enrichment and better understanding between the European Community and Latin American countries. The target audience is students and graduates from Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama and from European partner universities wishing to spend a 'mobility' (i.e. exchange) period abroad, i.e. from partner universities in Europe to the partner universities in Latin America, and from Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama to partner universities in Europe, for the purpose of studying, teaching or carrying out training and research.

ERACOL supports equal opportunities, gender balance and social equity, all of which will be important criteria in the selection of applicants. Socio-economic differences in health will be important topics in the educational and research topics included in the programme. For people with low socio-economic resources, health is just one of their worries, as it is often compounded by a lack of financial means and health knowledge. Improving the health of these populations will stimulate social participation, open opportunities to pursue different careers, generate more equal chances, and improve social equity.

The project provides funding for travel costs, subsistence allowances, tuition fees and insurance.

All mobilities (exchanges) funded by ERACOL must start before 1 September 2010.

Objectives

The objectives of ERACOL are:

- To create highly-trained graduates in the health sciences at the undergraduate, Masters, doctorate and post-doctorate levels – graduates who can tackle both local and regional public health problems and keep pace with developments in this field worldwide.
- To achieve sustained improvements in knowledge, teaching and research skills in the health sciences in third countries (i.e. countries that are not part of the European Union).
- To enhance the transnational research potential for dealing with local, regional and global public health challenges – research with a strong social commitment that enhances the value of previous EU-funded projects.
- To increase participation by the most disadvantaged groups in third countries, whose public health needs will be placed on the agenda for developing and implementing research in the health sciences and health interventions.



- To forge lasting links not only between the European and Latin American partner universities, but also between and within the EU and Latin American countries.
- To improve the participants' language and cultural skills, thus promoting wider mutual enrichment and understanding between the peoples involved.

In order to obtain a degree, participants should comply with the three following requirements, which they will acknowledge in a written agreement prior to participating in a study, training, or research programme abroad:

- 1) Commitment to the specific period of study, training or research abroad.
- 2) Successful completion of the course or programmes agreed.
- 3) Return to their home countries after this period.

Participants from one of the partner universities will receive the title from their university of origin only when they return to the country in which that university is located.

The research topics covered in the project will be directly relevant to third countries' needs, ensuring that participants return to their home countries with knowledge and skills that ensure they can find suitable professional opportunities there.

Finally, all agreements that are made between third-country students and their tutors and academic staff at host universities will apply solely to the academic periods offered under the project in question. Any scope for further education or work at the host universities will be explicitly excluded.

2. Partner universities, associates and contacts

Partner universities:

Latin America:

- [Universidad Autónoma de Centro América, Costa Rica](#)
- [Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica](#)
- [Universidad de Panama, Panama](#)
- [Universidad del Cauca, Colombia](#)
- [Universidad del Rosario, Colombia](#)
- [Universidad Latina de Panama, Panama](#)

Europe:

- [Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam \(Erasmus MC\) Rotterdam, The Netherlands](#), coordinating Institution
- [Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden](#)
- [Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium](#)
- [Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain](#)
- [University of Torino, Italy](#)

Associates:

- Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona (ASPB), Barcelona, Spain
- Centre de Recerca en Epidemiologia Ambiental (CREAL), Barcelona, Spain
- Colciencias, Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, Bogotá, Colombia
- Department of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Embassy of Panama in Brussels, Belgium
- Embassy of Costa Rica in Oslo, Norway
- Embassy of Panama in Stockholm, Sweden
- Embassy of Colombia in Stockholm, Sweden
- Fundación Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Panama, Panama
- GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Global International Studies, Bogotá, Colombia
- Panamerican Health Organization
- Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia
- Royal Netherlands Embassy in Panama, Panama
- Royal Netherlands Embassy in San José, Costa Rica
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
- University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia



Contacts

Project website: www.erasmus-columbus.eu

Contact Europe:

Astrid Vrakking, PhD
Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences – NIHES
PO Box 2040
3000 CA Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0) 10 704 3992
Fax: +31 (0) 10 703 8451
E-mail: eracol@erasmusmc.nl

Contact Latin America:

Mónica Ortegón, MD, DSc
Universidad del Rosario
Bogotá, Colombia
Phone: +57 (1) 34 745 70
Fax: +57 (1) 31 012 75
E-mail: eracol@urosario.edu.co

3. Thematic fields

ERACOL addresses the thematic fields Education, Mathematics, Biostatistics, Health Sciences, Natural and Social Sciences, all of which relate to **health and public health**. The teaching programmes provided by the consortium will give participants top-level training that prepares them for careers in clinical, biomedical, public health or applied research. Such studies will enable them to confront the challenges in the natural sciences, health sciences, social sciences, and policy sector that face them – and the world – both now and in the future. As most health threats have a significant international dimension, this international perspective will be of great importance.

The particular focus within these areas is to improve health and healthcare, and to reduce socio-economic inequalities. Teaching and research topics include topics of particular relevance to international health and the health situation in the Latin American countries involved. These include among others:

- clinical management;
- socio-economic differences in health and access to care;
- infectious-disease management and tropical medicine;
- sexually transmitted diseases;
- occupational and behavioural health-risk factors;
- the genetic and environmental determinants of health (such as dementia, glaucoma, stroke, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, myopia, neuropsychiatric diseases, paediatric diseases, and chronic respiratory diseases);
- reduction in the number of deaths due to preventable factors.

An inventory of the courses taught and research lines on offer by each university in the consortium is available on the project's web site www.erasmus-columbus.eu under the link "Academic Offerings". Please be aware that the lists are not exhaustive, and may be updated during the call for applications.

Students and scholars can choose from a wide variety of academic fields at different levels of study (undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate and staff exchange) offered by each of the partner universities. The consortium will select which applicants will receive scholarships on the basis of the selection criteria (see chapter 6).

The project finances expenses, including travel costs, subsistence allowances, tuition fees and insurance costs.

All mobilities funded by ERACOL must start before 1 September 2010.

4. Mobility

ERACOL will offer 139 scholarships distributed in the different academic levels and target groups. The duration of scholarships is related to academic calendars according to the following European Commission rules: 6 months = one semester, 10-12 months = 1 academic year, 34 months = 3 academic years

- **48 for undergraduate programmes**, both from Latin America and Europe: **6-10 months***

Undergraduate scholarships are designed for health sciences students in target groups 1 and 3 during their last years of training. Students will participate in education and research in the fields of public health, epidemiology, statistics or biomedicine at the host university.

- **26 for Masters programmes**, from Latin America: 8-12 months, from Europe: **6-10 months***

Masters scholarships are designed for:

- Practical research training phases for European students
- Theoretical and practical research training for Latin Americans
- Target group 2 students may or may not be registered at a university in Colombia, Costa Rica, or Panama, not being one of the partner universities.

* For Master and Undergraduates, mobility of a shorter duration is only allowed in duly justified cases

- **36 for doctorate (PhD) programmes**, from Latin America: 22-34 months for Target group 1 and 3, and 18-24 months for Target group 2; from Europe: 6-8 months
Doctorate scholarships are designed for PhD research projects, lasting up to three academic years for students from target groups 1 and 3 in Latin America.

- Practical research training phases for European students
- Theoretical and practical research training for Latin Americans
- Target group 2 students will stay abroad for two academic years.
- Target group 2 students may or may not be registered at a university in Colombia, Costa Rica, or Panama, not being one of the partner universities.

- **14 for the post-doctorate programmes**, from Latin America Target group 2 and Europe: **6-10 months**, from Latin America Target group 1 and 3: 7-10 months
Post-doctorate scholarships are designed for postdocs who carry out research projects abroad.

- Practical research training phases for European students
- Theoretical and practical research training for Latin Americans
- **Post doctorate European scholars must have obtained their doctorate in the last 2 years.**

- **15 for teaching staff programmes**, both from Latin America and Europe: 1-3 months
Teaching staff scholarships are designed for staff teaching, faculty building and carrying out research abroad.

Target groups

Three target groups are defined:

- Target group 1: Students and staff of the universities that are members of the partnership (39 mobilities from Europe, 46 mobilities from Latin America)
- Target group 2: Nationals of third countries not registered at a university that is a member of the partnership, but meet the eligibility criteria (16 mobilities from Latin America)
- Target group 3: Nationals of third countries who meet the eligibility criteria and belong to groups that are currently under-represented in Latin American institutions for higher education, defined either by socio-economic indicators, gender, physical disability or ethnic backgrounds (38 mobilities from Latin America)

Research training focuses on the development, promotion and undertaking of joint research training in medicine and health sciences. ERACOL encourages and facilitates collaborative research in disciplines related to health sciences.

Most of the mobility from Latin America to Europe involves training students at the undergraduate, Masters and PhD level. Staff mobility mainly involves teacher training and faculty building between the various institutions.

A special characteristic of this project is the focus on students from groups that are currently under-represented in Latin American institutions for higher education, which are defined either by socio-economic indicators, gender, physical disability or ethnic backgrounds (target group 3). The project includes the mobility of 38 students from these groups (27% of total mobility), representing tremendous untapped potential. Students from these groups will be encouraged to participate in the mobility schemes and will be selected on the basis of a list of criteria described in chapter 6

All mobilities in this project must start before 1 September 2010.

5. Scholarships

Selected applicants will be awarded a scholarship, which will cover a monthly subsistence allowance, travel costs, insurance and tuition fees at the host university (please see below for detailed information).

Applicants cannot benefit from more than one scholarship within the ERACOL project.

Mobility flows for students and academic staff must be from the partner universities in Europe to the partner universities in Latin America, and from Colombia Costa Rica and Panama to the partner universities in Europe. Mobility for student and academic staff between European universities or between third-country institutions involved in the partnership is not eligible.

Number and duration of available scholarships

The number of available scholarships per country and mobility type is shown in the table below:

Number of available scholarships

Type of mobility (duration)	Europeans	Third-country nationals				TOTAL
	Target group 1	Ctry code	Target group 1	Target group 2	Target group 3	
Undergraduates	13	CO	7		10	48
		CR	3		7	
		PA	3		5	
Masters students	5	CO	5	3	3	26
		CR	3	1	3	
		PA	1	1	1	
PhD students	10	CO	5	3	5	36
		CR	5	2	3	
		PA	1	1	1	
Post-docs	8	CO	1	2	0	14
		CR	0	2	0	
		PA	0	1	0	
Teaching staff	3	CO	6	0	0	15
		CR	3	0	0	
		PA	3	0	0	
TOTAL	39		46	16	38	139

• **CO**: Colombia; **CR**: Costa Rica; **PA**: Panama

• **Target group 1**: Students and staff of the universities that are members of the partnership

• **Target group 2**: Nationals of third countries who meet the eligibility criteria, but not registered at a university that is a member of the partnership

• **Target group 3**: Nationals of third countries who meet the eligibility criteria and belong to groups, who are currently under-represented in Latin American institutions for higher education defined either by socio-economic indicators, gender, physical disability or ethnic backgrounds

In order to start receiving the scholarship, all selected participants will be required to subscribe to a specific agreement concerning their duties and responsibilities in relation to the scholarship programme.

Subsistence allowance

For the duration of the mobility period beneficiaries will receive the following monthly subsistence allowance:

- Undergraduate: €1,000
- Masters student: €1,000
- PhD student: €1,500
- Post-doc: €1,800
- Academic member of staff: €2,500

Travel costs

Air tickets from the country of origin to the country of destination and back will be provided by the project. These costs will be covered by the project up to €2,000 per scholarship. The European Commission established this rate on the basis of the distance between the location of origin of the beneficiary and the country where the host university is located. Visa costs will be covered from this amount as well.

Insurance

Each scholarship includes full insurance cover (health, travel, accident) for the duration of the scholarship period. Insurance arrangements will be made in advance.

Tuition fees

The hosting universities will request no tuition or registration fees from scholars at any level. A small fee may be charged to incoming participants by the host universities to cover costs such as library services or books, equivalent of the fees paid by local students.

Fields of study

A general overview of the programmes per university is provided per level in the tables and descriptions below. A detailed list of available courses and research topics per partner university can be found under "Academic offerings" on the ERACOL project website: www.erasmus-columbus.eu. Please be aware that the lists are not exhaustive and may be updated during the call for applications. In PDF files, names and contact data are available for specific questions concerning research options and course programmes.

For the eleven partner universities, the following abbreviations are used in the tables.

Europe:

- Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands (NL)
- Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden (SE)
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (B)
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain (SP)
- University of Torino, Italy (IT)

Colombia

- Universidad del Cauca (CAUCA)
- Universidad del Rosario (UR)

Costa Rica:

- Universidad Autónoma de Centro América (UACA)
- Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)

Panama

- Universidad de Panama (UP)
- Universidad Latina de Panama (ULP)

This table shows the range of courses available in Europe and Latin America. Teaching programme for undergraduates

Teaching programmes	EUROPE					Colombia		Panama		Costa Rica	
	NL	B na	SE	IT	SP	UR	CAUCA	UP	ULP	UCR	UACA
Epidemiology	X					X		X	X		
Clinical Epidemiology	X			X							
Public Health	X		X			X		X	X		
Statistics				X				X			
Medicine/ Clinical Health Sciences	X					X	X	X	X	X	X
Biomedicine*					Human biology		Biology	X	Engineering	X	

*Biomedicine: programmes related to both biology and medicine

- Courses in Spain, Italy and Latin America are mainly in local languages
- Courses in Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden are in English
- Internships with patient contacts allowed only if students are proficient in local language.

Teaching programme for Masters students

Teaching programmes	EUROPE					Colombia		Panama		Costa Rica	
	NL	B	SE	IT	SP	UR	CAUCA	UP	ULP	UCR	UACA
Epidemiology	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	
Clinical Epidemiology	X										
Public Health/ Occupational health	X		X		X			X	X	X	
Statistics	X	X	X	X				X			
Clinical Health Sciences								X		X	X
Genetics or Genetic Epidemiology	X					X				X	
Biomedicine			X*			X		X		X	
Health economics	X					X		X			
Health management								X			

*Toxicology and environmental medicine

- Courses in Spain and Latin America are mainly taught in the local languages
- Courses in Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Italy are taught in English, although some of the courses in Italy are taught in Italian (check on the website for information about each specific course)

Teaching programme for doctorate (PhD) students

Teaching programmes	EUROPE					Colombia	Panama		Costa Rica		
	NL	B	SE	IT	SP	UR	CAUCA	UP	ULP	UCR	UACA
Epidemiology	X		X	X	X						
Clinical Epidemiology	X			X							
Public Health/ Occupational health	X				X						
Statistics	X	X	X	X							
Clinical Health Sciences											
Genetics or Genetic Epidemiology	X		X								
Biomedicine			X*			X					
Health economics						X					

*Toxicology and environmental medicine

- PhD students mainly carry out research, preferably following some courses and, where possible, teaching/supervising juniors and consultancy.
- The courses listed here are advanced (i.e. at doctorate level). If needed, courses at Masters level may also be part of the programme
- An additional Master of Science programme may be included in the PhD period as part of PhD, e.g. at Erasmus MC, NIHES, a Master of Health Sciences will be part of the PhD period.

Teaching programme for post doctorates

- There are no specific post-doctorate courses, but post-docs may attend Masters or doctorate courses as needed for their specific programme
- Post doctorates mainly carry out research, preferably following some courses, and where possible, teaching/supervising, and provide consultancy to others on their specific research knowledge.
- Setting up longer-term collaboration research or educational initiatives

Teaching programme for teaching staff

- Teaching staff may attend Masters or doctorate courses
- If needed/desired: some specific training courses
 - o Universidad Latina: specific: Clinical simulation
 - o Sweden: specific: Pedagogy for university teachers
- Teaching courses at the host university
- Setting up longer-term collaboration research or educational initiatives

Language

Most courses are offered in English. Some courses, especially at the undergraduate level are only offered in the local language (for more information see "academic offerings" on www.erasmus-columbus.eu). At the Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam in the Netherlands, all courses are offered in English. At Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain, courses are offered in Spanish as well as Catalán. The official languages at the University of Torino are both Italian and English, depending on the courses. Research can be done in English in all countries. Papers will be written in English in all countries.

Credit system

All partner universities agreed to convert credits where needed and award diplomas or certificates within the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and (if applicable) local credits. One ECTS equals 28 hours, six months equal 30 ECTS, and one academic year equals 60 ECTS. All universities will accept the distribution of classes and self-study according to the practice at the host university.

Academic Recognition

Study periods abroad will be recognized by home universities, provided training goals agreed are met.

If courses are followed at the host university to replace compulsory courses in the home country, the home university should agree on the number of credits of courses and additional requirements to pass compulsory courses at the home university. For individual mobility undergraduate or master programmes, the agreement of the programme director or examination board may be needed (according to the rules of the home university).

Where applicable and agreed by the host university, students may receive a degree from the host university as well, for example in cases a total Master programme is done at the host university.

Available courses and research options

A list of available courses and research topics per partner university are on the project website: www.erasmus-columbus.eu under the link "academic offerings". Please be aware that the lists are not exhaustive, and may be updated during the call for applications. In the PDF files, names and contact data are available for specific questions about research options and course programmes.

6. Selection criteria

ERACOL supports equal opportunities, gender balance and social equity, all of which will be important criteria in the selection of applicants. Socio-economic differences in health will be important topics in the educational and research topics included in the programme. For people with low socio-economic resources, health is just one of their worries, as it is often compounded by a lack of financial means and health knowledge. Improving the health of these populations will stimulate social participation, open opportunities to pursue different careers, generate more equal chances, and improve social equity.

Minimum academic qualifications

- **Undergraduates:** Applicants are eligible if they are registered for an undergraduate study at one of the partner universities. In most countries, medical students doing internships are undergraduates, except for in the Netherlands and Panama. In Spain and Sweden medical students have internships for their license after receiving their Bachelors degree. For the purpose of exchange in ERACOL, they will be considered part of the 'undergraduates' group as their activities will be similar.
- **Masters students:** Applicants must have an undergraduate degree, and be registered for a Master's programme in their home university for Target group 1 or 3. Students can also apply for a Master's mobility when they already have a Master-degree in a different discipline.
- **PhD students:** Applicants are eligible if they have a Masters degree or have started their PhD already.
- **Post-docs:** Applicants are eligible if they hold a PhD. **Post doctorate European scholars must have obtained their doctorate in the last 2 years.**
- **Teaching staff:** applicants are eligible if they have teaching tasks. They can also be a post-doc with teaching tasks

Besides these qualifications, local qualifications for specific programmes are applicable.

Eligibility rules

1. Applicants cannot benefit from more than one scholarship within the ERACOL project
2. Exchange between the European or between Latin American partner universities is not possible. (Mobility flows for students and academic staff must go from the partner universities in Europe to the partner universities in Latin America, and from Colombia Costa Rica and Panama to the partner universities in Europe.)
3. Applicants must belong to one of the target groups defined above. Applicants must state to which target group they belong at the time of the application.
4. Applicants must meet the minimum academic qualifications specified for each level. They must also have any additional academic qualifications as required for the specific course or programme they are applying for.
5. The required academic qualifications are mandatory when the mobility period starts (before 1 September 2010).
6. Eligibility of European applicants to study in Latin America: applicants must be registered or employed at one of the European partner institutions. **Further they need to have the nationality from the country of the European partner university they are studying / working in, or from another country within the European Union.**
7. Eligibility of Latin American applicants to study in Europe: applicants must have the nationality of any of the third countries included (Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama):
 - For Target groups 1 and 3: applicants need to be registered or employed at one of the Latin American partner universities.



- For Target group 2: registered in a higher education institution of these countries not included in the partnership or having obtained a university degree or equivalent by an institution located in these countries. This includes the possibility of providing mobility opportunities to third-country nationals working in public administration, public and private enterprises.
 - For Target group 3: Applicants who are currently under-represented in Latin American institutions for higher education. They must be defined either by socio-economic indicators, gender, physical disability or ethnic backgrounds, such as:
 - a. Refugee/asylum seekers
 - b. Displaced/socially excluded
 - c. Belonging to an ethnic minority
 - d. Low economic resourced background
 - e. Females
 - f. Citizens from the less developed regions (see table "Less Developed Regions ref, HDI – PNUD" below) in Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama
8. Applicants must have sufficient knowledge of the language in which the courses are taught or in which research is done at the host university, preferably, with evidence from an official language test.
The required language level according to the table below (Common Reference Levels: global scale) is:
- Undergraduates: minimum B1
 - Master: minimum B2
 - Doctorates, post doctorates, Academic staff: minimum B2, (English, preferably C1).
9. An interview may be part of the selection process.

Table Less Developed Regions ref, HDI – PNUD*

Colombia	Costa Rica	Panama
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choco • Nariño • Caquetá • Cauca • Sucre • Magdalena • N. Santander • Cordoba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunca • Chorotega • Huerta Norte • HuertaAtlántico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colón • Darien • Los Santos • Herrera • Bocas del Toro • Veraguas • Provincia de Panama

*http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/2008/documents/latin_america/call_la_reg_2009_english_v2.pdf (From table "Less Developed Regions ref, HDI – PNUD"; page 14; 2010, 5 April)

Table Common Reference Levels: global scale*

Basic user	A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
Independent user	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
Proficient user	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.

*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf (table 1, p. 24; 2010, 28 March)

7. Your online application

Please follow the application procedure at www.erasmus-columbus.eu > online application. You will be able to select a maximum of three preferred host universities by marking your first, second and third choices. The application is only valid if all of the compulsory documents have been uploaded. All attached documents should be in English or an official English sworn translation must be provided.

You have to send your application in English, including motivation letter, resume, research proposal and recommendation letters.

Checklist of required documents

1. **Letter of motivation** (in English, max. 500 words). Describe your motivation for a period of study/training abroad and your preferred teaching and/or research programme available at the universities participating in ERACOL, corresponding with your period of stay abroad.

A list of available courses and research topics per partner university are on the project website: www.erasmus-columbus.eu under the link "academic offerings". Please be aware that the lists are not exhaustive, and may be updated during the call for applications. In the PDF files, names and contact data are available for specific questions about research options and course programmes.

2. Most recent **resume (CV)**. Please make sure that the following information is included, unless "if applicable" applies. General information (name, address, email address, passport number)
 - a Passport photo
 - b Information on language requirements
 - Mother tongue:
 - English language:
 - Reading: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Writing: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Speaking: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Understanding: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Which English language courses have you done
 - Which English language proficiency test have you done. Please include name and address of institute.
 - An English proficiency test is not required, when you can prove with written, official certificates or diplomas that English was or is the instruction language at your university and/ or your secondary school (accredited bilingual schools and/or with International Baccalaureate programmes).
 - Other language (if applicable):
 - Reading: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Writing: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Speaking: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Understanding: Basic/ Good/ Excellent
 - Which language courses have you done
 - Which language proficiency test have you done? Please include name and address of institute.
 - A proficiency test is not required, , when you can prove with written, official certificates or diplomas that English was or is the

- instruction language at your university and/ or your secondary school (accredited bilingual schools and/or with International Baccalaureate programmes).
- c Educational background, including dates of study periods and date of degree
 - d Professional background, including start and end dates (if applicable)
 - Research experience
 - Involvement in current research
 - Teaching experience
 - e Publication list (if applicable) including theses and published papers. Please provide this information in Vancouver style. Instructions can be found on: <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/training/citation/vancouv.pdf>
 - f References
 - g For Target group 3: information on indicators
 - h All other relevant information.
3. If you are interested in a research-training period abroad, please include a **research proposal** (maximum 4 pages), stating the research group(s) you are working with in your home university and if applicable the research groups you have contacts with at your preferred host university.
4. **Certificate of English proficiency.**
We recommend uploading proficiency certificates as a confirmation of your level of proficiency besides your statement in your CV. Acceptable English certificates include TOEFL or IELTS results or another certificate of English command according to the European common reference framework levels (see above), issued by a qualified institute. Test results and certificates must have been issued in the last two years. If applicable, include official certificates or diplomas of studies completed at accredited bilingual universities or secondary schools, in which case you are exempted from English proficiency certificates.
5. **Certificate of proficiency** of other languages.
We recommend that you upload proficiency certificates as a confirmation of your level of proficiency besides the statement in your CV. Acceptable certificates include certificates according to the European common reference framework levels (see above), issued by a qualified institute. Test results and certificates must have been issued in the last two years. If applicable, include official certificates or diplomas of studies completed in this language at university or secondary school.
6. Official **transcripts of diplomas/degrees and reports** (lists of grades) translated into English, with original stamp and/or certification from the respective institute. Please upload the most relevant degrees and grades lists according to the minimum academic qualifications needed for your preferred mobility. (Secondary or high school, undergraduate, Master, doctorate)
- a. Undergraduate: Secondary or high school diploma and grades list.
 - b. Master: undergraduate grades and if having a previous MSc degree, the corresponding grades.
 - c. Doctorate (PhD): Master of Science degree with the corresponding grades list, or undergraduate degree and grades.
 - d. Post Doctorate: PhD degree.

7. If you are a student, you must upload the **letter of acceptance/enrolment** in your current programme and a transcript of your grades until the last semester.
8. **Letters of recommendation**
Two recent letters of recommendation. Assessors should include the following information:

If the assessor knew you as a student: details of your academic performance, the assessor's opinion of your suitability for the chosen area of study and an estimate of your English language ability.

If the assessor knew you as an employee: an outline of your responsibilities, an assessment of your competence and initiative and an estimate of your English language ability.
9. **Passport** scan
10. For Target group 3 candidates please include relevant documents supporting your ethnic, gender, or socioeconomic characteristics.

Selection

An initial assessment will be made by the home university or in the case of Target group 2, by the home country coordinator. The host university will carry out the second assessment. The executive board of the consortium will make the final selection.

Admission

Decisions about admissions will be communicated to all applicants in June 2010.

8. How to apply

Important dates:

- Deadline for applications: the call will close on June 1, 2010, 24:00 hours central European time
- All mobilities must start before 1 September 2010

Documents to be uploaded

For instructions see chapter 7. Your online application, paragraph "Required documents"

Please make sure that the following documents, which need to be uploaded to the application questionnaire when asked, are readily available on your computer:

- Passport scan.
- Most recent resume (CV).
- Certificates of Proficiency of English language or Diploma of University or Secondary School (and if applicable for other language)
- If you are a student, you must upload the letter of acceptance/enrollment in your current programme and a transcript of your grades.
- Official transcripts of diplomas and reports (lists of grades) translated into English, with original stamp and/or certification from the respective institute.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Your letter of motivation.
- If you are interested in a research-training period abroad, please include a research proposal.
- For target group 3 candidates: relevant documentation supporting your belonging to target group 3.

Supported document file types are pdf, jpg, doc, docx, rtf, txt and zip. Maximum file size is 2MB.

Complete your application in one go. Only complete applications are considered for the selection of candidates. All data entry fields marked with * are mandatory, you must complete them. Please check all fields before you submit your application. You will receive an automatic confirmation that your application has been received.

9. About the Erasmus Mundus External Co-operation Window (EM ECW)

The **Erasmus Mundus External Co-operation Window** is a co-operation and mobility scheme in the area of higher education co-operation launched by Europe Aid cooperation Office and implemented by the Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture.

The EM ECW objective is to achieve better understanding and mutual enrichment between the European Union and third countries co-operation in the field of higher education through promoting the exchange of people, knowledge and skills at higher education level. This will be achieved through the promotion of partnerships and institutional co-operation exchanges between European Higher Education Institutions and third-country institutions and a mobility scheme addressing student and academic exchanges.

The consortium covers 6 universities in three countries of Lot 21 b in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama) as well as 5 universities in 5 European countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and Sweden).

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More information on: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/index.htm>